

# OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



## *Hō'ola Nōio*

## ALOHA from New OCS Staff

OCS welcomes three new program specialists to its family - Ms. Charen Ching, Ms. Laurie Hirohata, and Ms. Sonya Seng. Please extend a warm welcome to them as our new OCS staff members.

Originally from Maui, Charen Ching graduated from Kamehameha Schools and attended colleges in Kansas and Colorado. After returning to Hawaii in 2001, she worked at the Oahu Visitor's Bureau and then as the Administrative Assistant at the Governor's Liason's Office.

Laurie Hirohata, MSW, M.Ed., graduated from Kaimuki High School and obtained her Masters in Social Work from the University of Kansas and her Masters of Education from the University of Illinois. Her last position was with the Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services as a Program Specialist V. She also has lectured at the University of Hawaii Community Colleges and at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Sonya Seng graduated from Punahou School, and obtained her degrees from Stanford University. She was the Director of Family Life at Bluewater Mission and served as an Associate Pastor with Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

With the addition of Charen, Laurie, and Sonya, OCS has reorganized all the programs and specialists; please see the next page for the new list.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Program Specialist Young Travels to San Francisco for Food

Program Specialist En Young spent the first week of June in San Francisco, California, attending the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM) Training for State Distributing Agencies. This training is pivotal to using this new WBSCM system for the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

The current program, called Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS), is a highly specialized system for ordering, tracking, and distributing multiple loads over different times over multiple islands, but will be discontinued in July in favor of the WBSCM system.

## Second Young Specialist to Travel to D.C. as Refugee Representative in National Conference

Dan Young, OCS Program Specialist for Employment Core Services for Refugees will be attending the Office of Refugee Resettlement's

(ORR) 2010 National Consultation in Washington D.C. from June 7th to June 10th. The ORR for the past three decades partners with state and non-profit agencies to help refugees to achieve self-sufficiency and resettle in the United State by providing short-term cash and medical assistance, employment services, transportation, translation and interpreter services, English language instruction, case management, and many other services.

Every year OCS has the pleasure of contributing to the national conversation, and this upcoming year for refugee program is expected to make some pivotal discussions, including the eligibility of persons with T-VISAs, U-VISAs, and war veterans. In Hawaii, this could potentially mean three times the amount of eligible refugees, calling for a restructuring of services and benefits.

### **The following Generally Funded Programs will now be:**

LBR 903-01: Employment Core Services for Low-Income Persons – Laurie Hirohata

LBR 903-02: Employment Core Services for Immigrants – Sonya Seng

LBR 903-04: Employment Creation Services for Low-Income Persons, Immigrants, and Refugees – Daniel Young

LBR 903-05: Child Care for Head Start Parents – Charen Ching

LBR 903-06: Transportation Services for Low-Income Persons – Charen Ching

LBR 903-07: Food Distribution for Low-Income Persons – Charen Ching

LBR 903-08: Youth Services for Immigrants – Daniel Young

LBR 903-15: Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (PAPD) Program – Daniel Young

### **The following Federally Funded Programs will be now be:**

LBR 903-03: Employment Core and Support Services for Refugees – Sonya Seng

Cash and Medical Assistance for Refugees – Sonya Seng

LBR 903-09: Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) for Low-Income Persons – En Young

WAP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - En Young

LBR 903-12: Legal Advocacy, Outreach, and Referral Services to Protect the Rights of Children and their Families – Charen Ching

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program – Charen Ching

LBR 903-16: Logistical, Storage and Transport Storage Services for Statewide Food Commodities (TEFAP) – En Young

TEFAP ARRA – En Young

LBR 903-20: Solar Water Heater System and Compact Fluorescent Light Program Services for Hawaiian Home Lands' Residences - ARRA – En Young

LBR 903-21: Supplemental State Energy Program for the Weatherization Program Services for Low-Income Persons ARRA – En Young

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) – Laurie Hirohata

CSBG ARRA – Laurie Hirohata

Grants and Subsidies (Grant in Aids and Capital Improvement Projects) – En Young